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PETROL PRICES HIKED FOR SIXTH CONSECUTIVE DAY

The Oil Marketing Companies increased the price of petrol in metros for the sixth consecutive day on Tuesday

DIESEL PRICES UNCHANGED SINCE JULY 30

According to the IndianOil website, petrol prices in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai increased to ₹81.73, ₹83.24, ₹88.39, ₹84.73 per litre respectively. The prices in Bengaluru and Hyderabad were ₹84.39 and ₹84.94 on Tuesday respectively. Meanwhile, diesel prices have stayed the same across all metros since July 30

PRICE HIKE ON NINE OF THE LAST 10 DAYS

- Oil companies started raising petrol prices on August 16 after a 47-day pause. Prices have gone up on nine of the 10 days since
- International crude prices rose on Tuesday as storms headed for the Gulf of Mexico shut over half of the region's offshore production on Monday. Brent rose by 1.86% to $45.97 a barrel

₹1.3
IS HOW MUCH THE PETROL PRICES HAVE GONE UP IN DELHI SINCE AUGUST 16

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TAKING STOCK OF DAMAGE

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa undertakes an aerial survey of flood-affected areas of North Karnataka on Tuesday. Heavy rains, which lashed the region over the past few weeks, have caused large-scale destruction. | EXPRESS | REPORT: P3

Bhushan: SC reserves verdict on punishment

KANU SARDA @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday reserved its verdict on the quantum of punishment to be awarded to activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan in the *suo motu* contempt of court case for his tweets against the judiciary. The apex court had, on August 14, held Bhushan guilty of contempt for his tweets.

During the hearing, a three-judge bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra asked Attorney General K K Venugopal for his opinion on the quantum of punishment. The A-G submitted that Bhushan should be let off with a warning, telling him not to repeat this in future.

An unconvinced Justice Mishra replied, "If a person says he didn't make a mistake and he won't apologise for it despite repeated opportunities, what will be the purpose of saying 'don't do it again'? It is not about us or him. It is about the institution, after all." He added that it was painful for him to decide the case days before he is due to demit office on September 2.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, representing Bhushan, reminded Justice Mishra that as a judge of the Calcutta High Court, he had let go of Mamata Banerjee after she said all judges were corrupt. P9

CONGRESS TO ADDRESS VETERANS' CONCERNS

Senior leaders who wrote to Sonia say they did so in the interest of the party • Revamp of AICC, restructuring of state units on cards

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

EVEN though none of the issues raised by 23 senior party leaders in their letter to Congress boss Sonia Gandhi was discussed at the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on Monday, their concerns are likely to be addressed, sources said. The All India Congress Committee (AICC) could soon see organisational changes with a reshuffle planned in many states.

Party sources said the restructuring of state units has already started, while a thorough revamp of the AICC is on the cards.

The coming weeks could see a reshuffle of general secretaries and state in-charges. According to sources, Jharkhand in-charge R P N Singh, Punjab in-charge Asha Kumari, and Chhattisgarh in-charge P L Punia will either be moved to other states or relieved of their responsibilities.

A few fresh faces are also likely to be inducted in the top team, while young leaders may be given organisational posts. The changes, however, are planned in a phased manner.

Meanwhile, members of the group who sent the letter on Tuesday said they cannot be termed 'dissenters', as their intention was only to strengthen the party.

Congress Working Committee member Anand Sharma said the letter was written in the best interest of the party. "India needs a strong opposition to confront the BJP. Suggestions for the party's renewal made in sincerity are not dissent," he tweeted. Echoing similar views, Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha, one of the signatories, said, "The letter was not a challenge to leadership, but a parchment of action to strengthen the party".

Senior leader Kapil Sibal, who on Monday took exception to insinuations that the letter was written at the behest of the BJP, tweeted on Tuesday, "It's not about a post. It's about my country which matters the most".

Moily: Intention is to keep the party battle-ready

RAMU PATIL @Bengaluru

THE intention behind writing a letter calling to strengthen the party was to ensure that the Congress is battle-ready to take on the BJP in the 2024 polls and not to question the party leadership, senior Congress leader and former Karnataka CM M Veerappa Moily told *TNIE*.

Moily, who was among the 23 leaders who are signatories to the letter, said their plea was not against the leadership as they all have absolute faith in Sonia Gandhi.

"Sonia has been successful in leading the party to victory in the 2004 and 2009 elections. She has been successful in managing alliance partners and taking the party forward. Now, that has to be taken forward and Sonia Gandhi's leadership is always required," he stressed.

DETAILED REPORT: P3

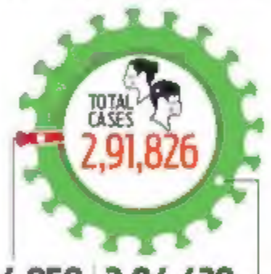
KARNATAKA COVID-19 BATTLE

The state witnessed a sudden spike in Covid-19 cases on Tuesday with **8,161** testing positive, compared to the last two days when there was a mild dip, with around 5,000 testing positive daily. However, experts say it is too early to say if we are nearing the peak or have already reached it.

- KPCC president D K Shivakumar tests positive, hospitalised

State sees **148** fatalities on Tuesday, even as Bengaluru Urban district reports **2,294** positive cases

14 newborns in Vani Vilas Hospital contract virus from mothers



4,958 Total Deaths | **2,04,439** Total Discharges so far

• FULL COVERAGE P4

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